

APPENDIX 3

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

In accordance with law, regulation, executive order and policy, the Road Decommissioning and Coast Creek Density Management Thinning interdisciplinary team reviewed the elements of the environment to determine if they would be affected by the proposed action (i.e., Alternative 2) described in Chapter 2. The following two tables summarize the results of that review. There was one major issue, Soil and Water, identified by the interdisciplinary team through scoping (section 1.6). Chapter 3 contains a discussion of the environmental consequences related to the major issue, as well as three other elements of the environment (i.e., vegetation, wildlife, and fisheries).

Table 1. Critical Elements of the Environment. This table lists the critical elements of the environment which are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order and the interdisciplinary team's predicted environmental impact per element if the proposed action (i.e., Alternative 2) described in Chapter 2 of the Environmental Assessment was implemented.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Air Quality	Minimal Effect	<p>This element was not identified as a major issue. The major sources of potential air pollutants associated with the proposed action are smoke from prescribed burning (e.g., burning of landing debris if determined to be a fire hazard), and dust from the use of unsurfaced roads and road maintenance (Salem District Resource Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement, p. Chapter 4-8). The project area is within 6 air miles of the cities of Willamina and Sheridan. The proposed haul route (e.g., Coast Creek Road and Willamina Creek Road) is primarily paved with only a few miles of gravel or natural-surface roads. Also, there are several rural residences located along the proposed haul route. The project area is not within an Oregon Smoke Management designated area. Since burning would be conducted in accordance with the <i>Oregon State Implementation Plan</i> and <i>Oregon Smoke Management Plan</i>, the impact of smoke on air quality is predicted to be local and of short duration. Dust created from vehicle traffic on gravel or natural-surface roads, road maintenance, and logging operations is predicted to be localized and of short duration. As such, the proposed action would have no adverse impact on air quality and would comply with the provisions of the Clean Air Act.</p>

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CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. There is no ACEC located within the project area.
Cultural, Historic, Paleontological	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. There are no known cultural sites located within the project area. Pursuant to the August 1998 protocol for managing cultural resources on lands administered by the BLM in Oregon, the Coastal Range Inventory Plan only requires post-harvest surveys. As such, surveys will not be conducted until the harvest activity is completed. Additionally, the road decommissioning project is an exempt undertaking (i.e., Protocol, Appendix E, Transportation, #1) since the actions are limited to the existing roadway prism which was previously disturbed. If during the implementation of either project cultural resources are found, the project(s) may be redesigned to protect the cultural resource values present, or evaluation and mitigation procedures would be implemented based on recommendations from the District Archaeologist.

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Native American Religious Concerns	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. Tribes were contacted during scoping and no Native American religious concerns were identified (Project Record, Documents 15 and 21).
Threatened or Endangered Plant Species or Habitat	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. There are no known threatened or endangered plant species or habitat located within the project area.
Threatened or Endangered Wildlife Species or Habitat	See Chapter 3 of the EA	This element was not identified as a major issue. However, refer to Chapter 3 of the EA for a discussion of the environmental effects.
Threatened or Endangered Fish Species or Habitat	See Chapter 3 of the EA	This element was not identified as a major issue. However, refer to Chapter 3 of the EA for a discussion of the environmental effects.
Prime or Unique Farm Lands	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. There is no prime or unique farm lands located within the project area.
Flood Plains	See Chapter 3 of the EA	This element was not identified as a major issue. However, refer to Chapter 3 of the EA for a discussion of the environmental effects.

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Hazardous or Solid Wastes	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. There is not predicted to be any environmental effects associated with this element due to the implementation of the Best Management Practices contained in the <i>Salem District Resource Management Plan</i> and the terms/conditions of the timber sale contract, including section 26 (refuse control and disposition of waste material), section 27 (storage and handling of hazardous waste), and section 28 (safety and health). Failure to comply with the terms and condition of the timber sale contract can result in violations, suspension or cancellation of the contract per section 10.
Water Quality (Surface and Ground)	See Chapter 3 of the EA	Impacts to surface water quality was identified as a major issue. Refer to Chapter 3 of the EA for a detailed analysis of the impacts to water quality.

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Wetlands/Riparian Zones (Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 5/24/77)	Minimal Effect	This element was not identified as a major issue. While the density management thinning project proposes to treat approximately 14 acres of Riparian Reserve, project design features such as the maintenance of "no cut buffers" and the restriction upon the use of ground-based equipment assure the protection of wetland and riparian zones. Also see Appendix 6 for a discussion of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. There is no wild and scenic river located within the project area.
Wilderness	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. There is no wilderness located within the project area.
Invasive, Nonnative Species (includes Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species, 2/3/99)	See Chapter 3 of the EA	This element was not identified as a major issue. However, refer to Chapter 3 of the EA for a discussion of the environmental effects.

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Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low- income Populations, 2/11/94)	Minimal Effect	This element was not identified as a major issue. The density management thinning project would yield approximately three million board feet of merchantable timber over a three year period and the road decommissioning project would provide the opportunity for contract work. Both projects would result in minimal impact to the local and regional economies. Additionally, considering the information contained in the <i>Social Assessment of the Northern Coast Range Adaptive Management Area</i> , dated June 1997, and the <i>Environmental Justice Screening in NEPA Analysis for Oregon, Washington, and Northern California</i> , dated March 1999, the proposed action is not anticipated to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.

Table 2. Other Elements of the Environment. This table lists other elements of the environment which are subject to requirements specified in law, regulation, policy, or management direction and the interdisciplinary team's predicted environmental impact per element if the proposed action (i.e., Alternative 2) described in Chapter 2 of the Environmental Assessment was implemented.

ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Land Uses (including mining claims, mineral leases, etc.)	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. There are no known mining claims, mineral leases, etc. located within the project area.
Minerals	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. The proposed action does not include the extraction of any mineral resource. As such, this element will not be affected by the proposed action.
Recreation	Minimal Affect	This element was not identified as a major issue. The primary recreational uses associated with the project area are hunting and OHV (off-highway vehicles). The proposed action would have minimal impact on hunting and OHVs in the short-term due to the disturbance factor associated with an active timber sale. The density management thinning project contains the provision to clear existing OHV trails of logging debris upon completion of harvest activities. Additionally, the roads that are proposed for decommissioning are dead-end roads that do not serve as connections to OHV trails. In the long-term, the proposed action would improve the habitat quality available for deer and elk.

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ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Soils	See Chapter 3 of the EA	Impacts to the soil resource was identified as a major issue. Refer to Chapter 3 of the EA for a detailed analysis of the impacts to soil productivity.
Visual Resources	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. The proposed project area is located within the Class 4 VRM (Visual Resource Management) category which allows for major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The proposed action is consistent with this visual resource management objective (Project Record, Document 38).
Water Resources (including Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives, beneficial uses [Salem FEIS Chapter 3-9], DEQ 303d listed streams, water temperature, sedimentation, water quantity, etc.)	See Chapter 3 of the EA	Impacts to surface water quality was identified as a major issue. Refer to Chapter 3 of the EA for a detailed analysis of the impacts to water quality. Also see Appendix 6 for a discussion of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives.

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ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Bureau Sensitive and Special Attention Plant Species/Habitat (including Survey and Manage, and protection buffer species)	See Chapter 3 of the EA	This element was not identified as a major issue. However, refer to Chapter 3 of the EA for a discussion of the environmental effects.
Bureau Sensitive and Special Attention Wildlife Species/Habitat, (including mammal Survey and Manage, and mollusks)	See Chapter 3 of the EA	This element was not identified as a major issue. However, refer to Chapter 3 of the EA for a discussion of the environmental effects.
Fish Species with Bureau Status	See Chapter 3 of the EA	This element was not identified as a major issue. However, refer to Chapter 3 of the EA for a discussion of the environmental effects.
Rural Interface Areas	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. There are no rural interface areas located within the project area.

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Coastal Zone (affect on "any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone." The determination of effects should include "direct, indirect, cumulative, secondary, and reasonably foreseeable effects")	None	This element was not identified as a major issue. The project area is not located within Oregon's Coastal Zone boundary. However, the proposed action appears to be consistent with the applicable statewide planning goals identified in the Oregon Coastal Management Program.